

22/CSC ANOTHER COOK

Mike J. Burrows

For several years the perfin which provided quite a puzzle
was, 22/CSC 10,10/8,10,8 5/42

It was not until 1970 that member Paul Redmond came up with
the identification of the user,

COOK SON & COMPANY London , E.C.4.

Descended from a Wymondham, Norfolk, family; William Cook
began business as a retail linen draper at 7, Great Warner Street,
Clerkenwell. Trading with a partner as Cook and Martin, from 1807
to 1812. Continuing in his own name he also had premises at Fish
Street Hill until 1830.

By 1819 he had decided to expand and opened a wholesale ware-
house at 89 Cheapside. Brother James joined the firm and in 1822
became a partner. Another partner, a Mr Gladstones, appeared on
the scene three years later. Upon moving the wholesale firm to
St. Paul's Churchyard in 1834 the trading style of Cook, Son &
Gladstones was adopted. This lasts until 1843.

Francis Cook joined his father in 1833 and ten years later
became a partner, the name changing to Cook, Sons & Company. On
the death of his eldest brother, in 1852, it became known as Cook,
Son & Company. This was retained until 1920.

The philanthropic Francis took a great interest in the arts
and was elected a F.S.A. A Baronetcy was conferred upon him on
10th March 1886. When he died in 1901 his personal estate was
valued at £1,500,000.

Stubbs Directory for 1897 gives the Company's address as 22 -
26 St. Paul's Churchyard. Possibly this would account for the
number in the perfin die.

In 1920 the Company was incorporated and became Cook, Son &,
Co. (St. Paul's) Limited. At this time it had one of the largest
warehouses in the wholesale textile industry. Consisting of four
main blocks opening on to eight streets and connected by no less
than eighteen bridges or tunnels. Capital for this thriving
concern was given as £4,000,000. Indeed, one could say that this
family of Norfolk stock was a fine example of the little acorn.

One other perfin is listed for this Company:

698 CS/&Co/SP 8,10/14,8,6/10,10 4½mm (111)

The SP is presumed to stand for St. Paul's.

NOTE, In the 1950 - 1970 period it was considered that the CSC
stood for Civil Service Commission. This is listed in the
Illustrated Catalogue as 17.2. Has any member concrete
evidence of this identification?
Another item in the Catalogue is,
698A CSC/22 8,10,8/10,10